

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

November 18 & 19, 2008
UW Laboratories, Friday Harbor

Day 1

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Robert Johnston
- Jan Newton
- Frank Shipley
- John Stark
- Usha Varanasi
- Katharine Wellman

Staff:

- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Mary Ruckelshaus, PSP Chief Scientist

*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting.
A full recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.*

Action Items:

- Approve June 2008 Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Action Agenda development
- Redesigning a Healthy Puget Sound presentation
- Science Panel role in next steps for the Puget Sound Partnership discussion
- Puget Sound Toxics Loading Assessment presentation
- Biennial Budget recommendations
- Strategic Science Plan development

The workshop, although open to the public, is informal and not recorded.

10:00 a.m. WORK SESSION

Science Panel vice-chair, Jan Newton opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. since Joel Baker called to let the Panel know he was going to be a little late getting to the meeting. She welcomed the Panel to Friday Harbor and provided a quick overview of the facilities.

In reviewing the meeting agenda, the Panel discussed the work session times and issues to focus on. During this first work session, the Panel will be discussing the draft Action Agenda, comments received on the Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP), and if time allows, the Strategic Science Plan. The Panel also discussed the need to spend time on the biennial budget exercise before the end of the meeting.

Scott Redman introduced the discussion on the Action Agenda review. He discussed the different pieces of the Action Agenda that are now in various stages of review and how this has been confusing to people.

The Panel then reviewed the Question 1 portion of the Action Agenda (November 6, 2008 draft). Suggestions made by the Panel included:

- Need to include footnotes and sequential numbering
- Concern with how the goal, outcomes, and indicators table was developed (Scott will revise to reflect the discussion)
- Change to toxics indicator from "pelagic" fish to fish
- Include information on the climate change scenario and how the targets and benchmarks could change significantly due to climate change
- Need to make sure this is not portrayed as science-based but moving in the right direction
- Need a good preamble (Jan volunteered to draft wording)
- Concern with using historic levels for number of acres of eel grass

The Science Panel needs to decide if they are going to submit the comments formally as the Panel or each Panel member provide comments on their own. The Panel will, at a minimum, provide written comments to Martha Neuman.

The Panel voiced concern with approving the document since they are not doing a peer review process and haven't had time for a thorough review. They could provide comments and suggest ways to make the document better in this round and continue to make adjustments as time goes on.

Bill Ruckelshaus suggested including an outline of the process that will be used to include science in the Action Agenda.

Joel Baker suggested taking time during day two of the work session to continue discussion and provide priority sequencing of the BSWP work products.

Scott will provide the revised indicators table and Jan the draft preamble.

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER – Joel Baker, Chair
Joel Baker opened the regular meeting of the Science Panel.

He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Panel for the hard work on the Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP) during the morning work session.

He then provided an update on recent activities:

- He attended the Leadership Council on November 11 and talked about the draft indicators
- State budget is worse every day: This will not be a good budget year
- Scott Redman, Joel, and David Dicks met and talked about implementation of the BSWP and priority sequencing
- On the federal side, resources will be coming in under an economic stimulus package and the Partnership will need to work toward indentifying infrastructure building projects
- Due to the state of the economy, we may need to go a little slower to implement but it may also help us to think more holistically and long term – go slow and get it right
- During day two of the meeting, as the Panel talks about implementation, they need to look at ways to link with the partners

Joel then reviewed the day's agenda.

REDESIGNING A HEALTHY PUGET SOUND: TEN COMMANDMENTS

Joesph K. Gaydos, The SeaDoc Society presented his work, which has been peer reviewed; the final report will be released shortly. (See meeting materials for details.)

Joe reviewed his ten commandments of coastal ecosystem design:

1. Think ecosystem: political boundaries are arbitrary
2. Account for ecosystem connectivity: our ecosystem is more interconnected than we can imagine
3. Understand the food web: knowing the food web allows us to account for connectivity
4. Avoid fragmentation: breaking of ecosystems/landscapes/seascapes upsets the natural integrity
5. Respect ecosystem integrity: an intact ecosystem has all its parts and no "extra" ones
6. Support nature's resilience: help her roll with the punches
7. Value nature: it's money in your pocket
8. Watch wildlife health: tells about changes in the ecosystem
9. Plan for variability: extreme natural events test fitness, mediate competition, and assure diverse opportunities
10. Share the knowledge: need to educate and incorporate humans at every level into designing a healthy ecosystem in the future

After the presentation Joe and the Panel discussed what was meant by the recommendations and suggestions on how to accomplish.

They discussed:

- What is meant by “restore” or “design” and what both words mean to the public
- How the Action Agenda would look different if it was the Salish Sea Action Agenda and the need to coordinate with Canadian counterparts
- Need for a list of scientifically-based things people can do to help along with a reward system for doing the actions

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Marilyn O'Connor, Port of Friday Harbor, saving Puget Sound is not just a scientific issue but also a cultural issue. She would love to have a bigger list to be able to provide people. Some of the actions are already being done and people are hungry to do more.

Dr David Bain, citizen, wants people to think and act globally. He stressed the need to do the local activities but still communicate with the larger community. He gave the example of how whales that are in the Sound feed on fish in California. He also doesn't want us to oversimplify the problems, even if everyone does the top 3 or 5 things, we will still be in trouble. He suggested having tips of the week, or month and then people can pick one of two items that they can do. We need to think about how to get the connection with Canada better linked with our efforts and this needs to come from the leadership (governor).

He also talked about how the recovery plan will affect the killer whales. The recovery plan has good things but also includes flaws and suggested quantitative modeling for killer whales since we need to understand what is going on. Prey density would be another model needed for killer whale survival. He suggested a good benchmark would be if the killer whales return to Hood Canal. He suggested a potential labor pool of college students donating 100 hours of community service with data gathering. How killer whales are doing reflects how the rest of the ecosystem is doing: need to pay attention to the killer whale.

The group will hear more about the whales during the 4:00 p.m. special meeting.

Ken Stevens, Friday Harbor Lab Director, welcomed everyone to the lab and provided an overview of the activities that take place on this campus.

Shannon Westin, WSU Beach Watchers, reiterated Joe Gaydos' comments and talked about need for educating the people. She wants people to start thinking about the ecosystem and get a sense of place; if people can be connected to place it will help. She would like to see a prioritized list of things people can do.

SCIENCE PANEL ROLE IN NEXT STEPS FOR THE PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Joel introduced this agenda item. He noted that once the Action Agenda has been released, it is time to begin implementation of the plan. It is time to step back and decide how the Science Panel functions and how best to help the Leadership Council to implement the Action Agenda. (See meeting materials for details.)

The Science Panel needs to be able to answer the Leadership Council and public that we are doing the right things to get Puget Sound healthy by 2020. There are analytical approaches and information available to use but the challenge is to pick ranges and targets in a way that is transparent. The Panel could model the proposed indicators and benchmarks to see if they make a difference but first need to work with the policy groups to get the questions we are trying to answer more defined.

Bill Ruckelshaus commended the Science Panel for taking this on. He talked about groups he has worked on with both science and policy and how, until the roles were defined, there was tension between the scientists and policy groups. He would work with the scientists to get the policy question right for the science answer. Some times a policy question can't be answered scientifically, we need to have the scientists and policy-makers work together to get the right questions to be answered scientifically.

The Science Panel and Leadership Council needs to develop a science policy strategy to achieve the joint goal and keep in mind the joint goal at all times. The Partnership doesn't have a big science staff so the Science Panel is the science base for the Partnership.

The Panel discussed how, in this round, the Action Agenda is more a Partnership/Leadership Council document where the BSWP is a Science Panel document. We need to design a process to engage with one another moving forward. It was suggested that the Science Panel write the Strategic Science Plan to incorporate interaction with policy parts of the Partnership; need to hard-wire a process integrating science and policy.

Next steps: (1) Schedule a joint meeting of the Science Panel and Leadership Council after December 1, to develop and codify a science-policy strategy; before this meeting develop a straw-dog proposal; (2) Science Panel devise an approach/structure for working groups to engage Puget Sound large scientific community as Partnership pivots to implementation stage (coordinating what we already have, not building a new bureaucracy).

3:30 p.m. RECESS FOR THE EVENING

The regular Science Panel meeting was recessed at 3:30 p.m. to allow for a special meeting to discuss the orca issue.

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

November 18 & 19, 2008
UW Laboratories, Friday Harbor

Day 2

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Robert Johnston
- Jan Newton
- Frank Shipley
- John Stark
- Usha Varanasi
- Katharine Wellman

Leadership Council Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus

Staff:

- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
- Mary Ruckelshaus, PSP Chief Scientist

8:30 a.m. RECONVENED MEETING – Joel Baker, Chair

Joel reconvened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the day.

PANEL BASICS

Approval of June 2008 Science Panel Meeting Summary

Bob Johnston had some editorial comments on the draft summary. Instead of going through the changes during the meeting, the Panel empowered Tammy Owings to make the changes as needed, they then approved the June 2008 Meeting Summary as revised.

ACTION AGENDA

Joel Baker introduced this agenda item. (See meeting materials for details.)

He then proposed the Science Panel write a letter to the Leadership Council providing suggested changes for the Action Agenda and present this to the Council at its November 21, 2008, meeting.

Mary Ruckelshaus reported that she will be providing Martha Neuman with comments and she could provide the Science Panel comments to Martha also. The Panel agreed this would be appropriate for Mary to do.

The Panel discussed changes for the Action Agenda and how to make sure the correct level of science is included in the Action Agenda and how to include science as an underlining principle.

Leadership Council Chair Ruckelshaus reminded the Science Panel that if they feel strongly that some of the suggested actions are too unknown then to make sure to let the Leadership Council know this. They don't want to go forward with actions that are wrong or a lot more information is needed. The Partnership is going to need to be both doing actions and continuing to learn at the same time to be successful.

The Panel discussed monitoring needs and how to get funding for this as it is critical to the success. We need to educate people about the importance of monitoring.

The Panel discussed the budget request and the level the request should be. They discussed the need to develop a scientific framework so that when there is funding available there will be a place to put this funding.

Joel reminded everyone that there is a Science Panel Conference Call scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2008, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to discuss the budget.

The Science Panel is listed on the November 21 Leadership Council meeting agenda. Joel is unable to attend this meeting but will get the letter of comment finalized. Scott Redman and Trina Wellman will represent him at this meeting. Bob Johnston is planning to attend the meeting also.

PUGET SOUND TOXICS LOADING ASSESSMENT

Randy Shuman provided this presentation. He explained the efforts to date on the Toxics Loading work. (See meeting materials for details.)

The charter for this project is to provide guidance and coordination among agencies working on the Puget Sound Toxic Loading Assessment committee. This group will monitor project status, review deliverables, and assist with communication of results under toxic loading. He reported that toxic loading, effects, and reduction all need to be done; this group covers toxic loadings only. The Puget Sound Partnership is the lead on this committee.

Randy talked about having a workshop to present the information that is being found through these projects. Scott noted that the Partnership and EPA decided on which projects to work on at this time.

It was pointed out that there are several projects that are more in the effects side of things and questioned why there should be different groups; couldn't this group do both the loading and effects. Randy discussed the need for sequencing actions and costs.

Next steps still need to be decided.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment requested.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING SESSION

Chair Baker adjourned the regular meeting session at 12:15 p.m. He then convened the Panel's work session at 1:00 p.m. once Panel members took a lunch break.

The workshop, although open to the public, is informal and not recorded.

BIENNIAL BUDGET ESTIMATE

The Panel went through the Biennial Science Work Plan budget request and made suggestions for submittal to the Partnership. After Panel discussion, the request for staffing totaled 9.2 and the funding request was for almost \$26 million.

STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN

The Panel discussed the status of the Strategic Science Plan and how that should move forward.

After discussing changes, the Panel decided the current version needs to be reorganized and the outline revised. Scott will cut the verbiage from the current document and get back to the basic outline. The Panel will come prepared to talk about organization of the document and next steps at the December 2008 Science Panel meeting.

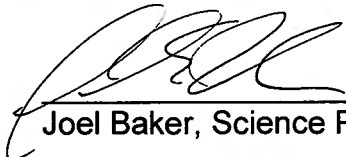
Next Steps:

- Get back to an outline
- Discuss outline and document organization at the December Science Panel meeting
- Final draft and organizational structure at the January Science Panel meeting
- Group meeting with Leadership Council and, possibly, Ecosystem Coordination Board members in February 2009

The Panel decided that, to be able to complete projects, they need to have monthly meetings for at least the first half of 2009.

3:30 p.m. ADJOURN

Science Panel Approval



Joel Baker, Science Panel Chair

Date 5/7/09

Next Meeting: December 16 - 17, 2008, Olympia
Cherberg Building, Senate Hearing Room #3